



# A SMALL SLICE OF PARADISE

with Blake Guthrie

The website for The Cottages on Charleston Harbor describe the property as “offering 10 luxurious cottages with world class amenities and convenient access to downtown Charleston.” Located on historic Patriot’s Point and only yards from the edge of Charleston Harbor, The Cottages offer a secluded, waterfront oasis close to the Charleston Marina. Walking onto the screened-in porch after check-in, it seemed as if one was hovering over the water instead of yards away from it.

From that moment on, my girlfriend Nicole and I found it hard to leave our waterfront cottage to explore the area. The best of Charleston was on display before us. To the left, we could see Fort Sumter in the distance at the mouth of the harbor. To the right, the piers and boats of the Charleston Harbor Marina were visible from our porch. City-sized ships plied the waters day and night creating waves that splashed ashore a minute or so after their passing. And across the channel was downtown Charleston, with a skyline mercifully free of skyscrapers. The tallest structures in town are church steeples, many of which date back to the 1700s. There aren’t many places in the world where you’d have such a mesmerizing vantage point of past and present at a glance. Of the 10 palm tree shaded cottages, one



is pet friendly which was the initial draw for us, since we were traveling with our basset hound, Geraldine. Management, proving they know who the boss is, left a custom-made sign hanging on the front door welcoming Geraldine, along with treats and chew toys waiting for her inside. All the accommodations utilize the same floor plan consisting of two bedrooms with full baths, and a third full bath off the kitchen. The third bath adds a nice touch of convenience for families or similarly close-knit groups of people on a coastal retreat who use a living room as a spare bedroom; no one has to wait for the bathroom; they can easily have access to a shower. A Jacuzzi tub and a stone-tiled shower make the master bath a haven. The living areas have a quintessential coastal cottage vibe: bright and airy, whitewashed interiors with big, fluffy furnishings worthy of a cat nap or beach read in the afternoons. There’s even a manicured white-sand beach area off the porch for sunbathing or lounging in Adirondack chairs while pelicans cruise by overhead, almost as if on cue, in their perfect V formation.

Geraldine was completely at home, choosing to never leave the property after our arrival. She entertained herself by sniffing incessantly in true hound form for tiny crabs on her shore walks and following the strenuous hunt, to nap in her comfy doggie bed which had been provided. We managed to venture out to explore the area on two wheels via the cruising bikes available for use by guests. The Cottages are a part of Patriot’s Point, where sidewalks and bike paths connect to attractions such as the USS Yorktown aircraft carrier, the Medal of Honor Museum, helicopter rides, the Fort Sumter ferry and Mount Pleasant Pier and Waterfront Park. You can also walk next door to the marina and catch a water taxi to historic downtown Charleston, a 10-minute boat ride away. It’s possible to never get back in your car after arriving at The Cottages and still experience a broad slice of the Charleston area, instead of just admiring it all from a rope hammock in an idyllic porch setting.

If You Go The Cottages on Charleston Harbor



(16 Patriots Point Rd., Mt. Pleasant. 866-901-2688; [www.thecottagesoncharlestonharbor.com](http://www.thecottagesoncharlestonharbor.com)). Peak season rates start at \$499 a night on weekdays and \$699 on weekends with a three-night minimum. A few package deals are offered, including the Ultimate Girlfriends’ Getaway and the All American Vacation, with per-person rates based on four-person occupancy. Eat Here The Wreck of the Richard and Charlene (106 Haddrell St., Mt. Pleasant. 843-884-0052; [www.wreckrc.com](http://www.wreckrc.com)).

Authentic seafood dive on Shem Creek where everything is served on paper plates on a butcher-paper covered table. It’s only open 3-4 hours a night. You may have to ask for directions, because the restaurant is tucked away in a backwash neighborhood with no street signage. And there’s no place else like it in the Charleston area. Feel Like a Local Here Coleman Public House (427 W. Coleman Blvd., Mt. Pleasant. 843-416-8833; [www.colemanpublichouse.com](http://www.colemanpublichouse.com)). If you tire of being a tourist, go where the locals go.

This Mount Pleasant pub serves inventive grub and an ever-rotating line of craft brews, hence the chalkboard draft handles. Like all true public houses, you can bring the kids here in the daylight hours. If Ballard is manning the pumps, tell him we sent you. Mark Your Calendar <http://charlestonwineandfood.com> March 2 - 6